9/9/70

Dear Harold,

I set my alarm for an hour earlier this morning, to leave myself time to answer some letters before leaving for the office. We are insanely busy, partly because of the cholera epidemic, partly because of other exigencies, and the General Assembly has not even opened yet--that is when the real pressure is put on!

Thanks for your letter of the 3rd. I had received Hoch's "study" on Monday the 31st of August and replied the same date, while boiling with disgust, fury, and bitterness. I had always respected Hoch for his careful, methodical, and seemingly objective research; but this paper shows him for what he really is--a mere Epsteinian fink, more dedicated to the licking of the Alvarez backside than to mere justice or truth. No doubt he has his eye fixed to his future career, and this "study" is a quintessential act of self-ingratiation with a man who can help him immensely.

I don't know whether my rebuttal was as strong as it might have been but I think I made my main argument, anyhow--that instead of seeking to absolve a man cynically framed, Hoch is adding his own efforts to those of the whole Governmental apparatus, to shore up a singularly clumsy and transparent fraud with all the trappings of the acadamician's "impartiality" of inquiry. What a piece of dirty iniquity! F--- him, from this point forward, and you know that I do not use coarse language very often.

Believe me, I completely share your view that with such "friends" as we have, we do not need ememies. Fortunately, there are some exceptions, such as that very genuine and good person Mary Ferrell. I'm sure that she filled you in on my visit to Dallas. It is something that I had long wanted to do, and I finally did the visit under most fortunate circumstances, for Mary and Arch Kimbrough were unfailingly courteous, hospitable, helpful, and endearing.

The trip was not exactly easy, because I had to drag the cat with me and it was a real ordeal for her. It is always a problem and has kept me from travelling time and again. That is one reason why I have not visited you, Harold, much as I would like to have a really good talk with you about the case as it now looks. At the first opportunity that arises, I will hope to arrange at least a 1-day trip.

Please do stay in touch. Needless to say, I would like very much to see your 8-page rebuttal of the Hoch obscenity and your separate letter to him, if you are circulating these items. Please stay in touch.

All the best,
As ever,

Sylvia